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KENYA
Umoja ni Nguvu

Newsletter

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UN Resident Coordinator
Ms. Nardos Bekele-Thomas New Appointment

Ms. Nardos Bekele-Thomas receives a gift from the Chairman of the Council of Governors Hon Peter Munya (right) and Hon. Salim Mvurua (left). (Photo by UNDP)

UN Resident Coordinator and UNDP Resident Representative Ms. Nardos Bekele-Thomas has been appointed to the position of Director in the Executive Office of the Secretary General (EOSG) in New York. The appointment was effective 25th January 2016.

“I am very grateful to the Secretary General for his trust and confidence in me and for giving me the incredible opportunity to work in his office” said Ms. Nardos during her farewell luncheon held in her honor.

Ms. Nardos had served in Kenya for two years during which the United Nations Country Team (UNCT) played a leading role in several development initiatives in the country. It is during her tenure that delivering as one (DaO) became a reality in Kenya and expanded the concept from being exclusively a UN affair, to encompassing national entities and development partners involved in the delivery United Nations Development Assistance Framework (UNDAF).

It is also under her leadership that the UN created structures through which many of the projects under UNDAF’s Strategic Result Areas were delivered. This includes two hallmark Area based development programs: The Turkana/UN Joint Program 2015 – 2018 which has already taken off and the Cross-border Integrated Program for Sustainable Peace and Socioeconomic Transformation which was historically launched by President Uhuru Kenyatta and Prime Minister Hailemariam Desalegn in Moyale on 7th December, 2015.

Representatives from the Kenya Government led by Cabinet Secretary in the Ministry of Foreign Affairs Ms. Amina Mohammed, Development

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Partners and implementing partners gave accolades to Ms. Nardos for the leadership and commitment that she had shown while in serving in Kenya. African Development Bank Regional Director, Mr. Gabriel Negatu said “what sets Ms. Nardos apart is that she has served with passion, for a country that she has called her second home.” The Chairman of Council of Governors, Peter Munya assured the outgoing Resident Coordinator that “the Council of Governors will remain committed to working together with the UN in the spirit of partnership to implement Sustainable Development Goals.”

Ms. Nardos called on the people of Kenya to remain focused on the implementation of the Constitution and Vision 2030 for the country to achieve sustainable development. “This country has the capacity to do the visioning, the strategic thinking and the analysis of what needs to be done” she said.

Ms. Nardos is a seasoned and experienced UN official and has previously served as the Resident Coordinator in the Republic of Benin, Country Program Adviser for East and Central Africa in the UNDP Regional Bureau for Africa and as Regional Private Sector Policy Adviser.

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**Promoting the World’s Underwater Cultural Heritage in Africa: Mombasa 2001 Convention going forward**

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An **advancing** **UNESCO’s commitment to provide capacities to African Member States to better protect their underwater cultural heritage, UNESCO, in partnership with the National Museum of Kenya, organized the first UNESCO training workshop that took place on the African continent from 10 to 20 December 2015 in Mombasa, Kenya.

This workshop was a follow up on the two previous trainings which was held in Turkey for the African Member States in 2011 and 2015 respectively. Cultural officials and experts from Kenya, Madagascar, Mozambique, Namibia, Nigeria, Senegal, and South Africa took part in the training.

The course ran for a period of 10 days combining theoretical classes with practical sessions. It followed the training schemes and standards collected in the UNESCO Foundation Course Manual on the Protection and Management of the Underwater Cultural Heritage and the UNESCO Manual for Activities directed at Underwater Cultural Heritage. The main aim of the course was the provision of the necessary management tools to understand the different evaluation and registration techniques applied to UCH, as well as to develop significance assessments and management plans.
The course underlined and presented the UNESCO 2001 Convention and its Annex and gave precise directions on how to develop underwater archaeology according to the international scientific standards.

During the workshop, the Director-General of the National Museums of Kenya, Dr. Mzalendo Kibunjia, reaffirmed Kenya’s commitment in the ratification and implementation of the UNESCO 2001 Convention on the Protection of the Underwater Cultural Heritage. Mr. Mohamed Djelid, Director, UNESCO Regional Office for Eastern Africa congratulated Kenya and the expert community, and noted that “Kenya has become the African leader in the implementation of the Underwater Cultural Heritage Convention,” and on UNESCO’s continuous support in working with the African countries in their processes to ratify the 2001 Convention, he added.

The training also allowed the participants to share their interventions on the situation of the Underwater Cultural Heritage in their countries. In addition, various mitigation measures in protecting the submerged heritage in Africa was discussed through interactive dialogue. On the last day of the course the participants presented the results of their management plans, taking into account all the strategies and management procedures learnt.

Cultural visits were organized to Fort Jesus, World Heritage Site, as well as to a traditional local shipyard. From the visit, the participants managed to elaborate management plans for the underwater archaeological site proposed for the course, a modern 20th century shipwreck sunk off Mombasa coast, the Globe Star. This shipwreck was put in relation with the 19th century shipwreck of the Sussex, and the 16th century Portuguese shipwreck of Santo Antonio de Tanna, to evaluate the cultural and historical significance for the immediate area linked to the historic port of Mombasa. These management plans followed the Rules for activities directed at the underwater cultural heritage, contained in the Annex of the Convention, which were taught in detail during the course.

Underwater Cultural Heritage encompasses all traces of human existence that lie or have lain underwater and have a cultural or historical character. For more information on the Underwater Cultural Heritage, please see: http://www.unesco.org/new/en/culture/themes/underwater-cultural-heritage/

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**Promoting Health and Sustainable Livelihood for Adolescent Girls in Kibera**

UNESCO with the support of the Government of Azerbaijan and the Ministry of Education, Science and Technology (MoEST) are implementing a project to promote behavioral change practices in improving health literacy among adolescent girls in Kibera.

The project specifically focuses on improving the effectiveness of the delivery of health information at classrooms to ensure such information will lead to desired behavior change among adolescent girls. The project aims at reaching 25 staff members of MoEST, County Directorate of Education and Ministry of Devolution and Planning (Directorate of Gender), 1000 teachers and instructors, and 1000 adolescent girls in Kibera.

Since the commencement of the project, a need assessment conducted during the month of September 2015, has been validated by the stakeholders including teacher and student representatives from Kibera. The goal of the assessment was to assess the learning context for adolescent girls aged 10-19 in formal and non-formal schools in Kibera with the view of identifying priority areas for intervention.

Through the assessment, a total of 138 people were interviewed, including...
Season 3 of the Global Urban Lectures launched

The Global Urban Lecture Series is an initiative by UN-Habitat’s partnership with universities worldwide – UNI – to bring the knowledge and experiences of urban experts associated with the agency’s work to a wide audience.

The series is free and consists of 15-minute lectures on urban topics related to the focus areas of UN-Habitat. Besides the video, each lecture includes a synopsis, a biography of the speaker, an MP3 file and links to additional reading material for further study. By the end of the second season, the Global Urban Lectures had reached 50,000 views, occupied 15 out of the top 20 spots on the UN-Habitat video list, and had been independently featured as ‘one of the best MOOCs on cities’.

The lectures are being shared across the globe, with a female-male viewer balance of 46:54; ages spanning 18 to 40; and countries with the highest viewership being in Africa and Asia.
Panelists during the skills building workshop hosted by UN Women including Dr. Robert Simiyu – Third from the right and Ms. Florence Anam – 2nd right both from Kenya. (Photo by Kennedy Okoth)

UN Women Kenya Showcases Successful strategies on Gender Mainstreaming in HIV policies during ICASA 2015

65+, with the largest group being 25-34 year olds. The series currently has 28 lectures and two trailers online.

We are now pleased to announce the launch of its third season, starting with: “The federation model of community organisation” by Sheela Patel of Slum Dwellers International: Over the past two decades SDI have created a mechanism which serves to create a city-wide network of urban informal.

This has been done through a process called enumeration, through which the members collect data about informal settlements at city-level.

The new season features lecturers discussing topics such as gender in urban planning, transforming cities towards low-carbon resilience, affordable housing, geo-spatial technologies for slum mapping, global economic competitor and the use of open data to transform slum upgrading process as well as transport systems.

For comments and suggestions, please contact UNI@unhabitat.org.

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tools and methods available for advancing gender equality and women’s leadership in national AIDS responses.

The Workshop, held on the second day of the conference was attended by 92 participants drawn from civil society organizations, women living with HIV; government representatives, chiefs, development partners and UN Agencies.

The UN Women Kenya country program presented on the success in gender mainstreaming in the National HIV and AIDS policy in the country which was based on a 3 year project funded by the European Union, and was implemented in 5 countries. The presentation on Kenya was done by Ms. Florence Anam, currently the Global Advocacy and Communication Manager of the International Community of Women Living with HIV and AIDS in Kenya and formerly of NEPHAK – one of the UN Women Kenya implementing partners of the 3 year program.

Highlights of her presentation included the success in combining different strategies to achieve the final output of a Gender Transformative National HIV strategic plan. The strategies employed included capacity building of the National AIDS control Council senior staff on gender mainstreaming and working with civil society organizations specifically networks of WLHIV on advocating for the inclusion and recognition of gender equality and empowerment of women and girls components in the national HIV strategy.

UN Women also supported the development of a national gender action plan to guide in the implementation of the gender component of the strategic framework.

“As ICASA 2015 comes to an end, it marks the beginning of an era for implementing strategies and programmes aimed at ending AIDS by 2030 as we work together to achieve gender equality and implement the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). To achieve this, we need to fully empower and engage all women and girls.” Kavutha Mutuvi, Gender Advisor-HIV, UN Women, Kenya

The gender transformative national HIV framework is currently being used to guide the development of gender transformative county specific HIV plans. UN Women is currently undertaking sensitization among some county government staff on the development of gender specific HIV budgets to support in advocating for domestic financing of the county HIV plans. UN Women has also provided technical and financial support towards the development of the counties especially in Nairobi, Homabay and Kisii counties.
Introducing HeForShe Campaign to the National Council of Churches in Kenya

The National Council of Churches in Kenya (NCCK) showed support to the UN Women HeForShe solidarity movement as the General Secretary Reverend Canon Peter Karanja signed up on the online HeForShe action platform to be a champion.

The sign up was as a result of the HeForShe introduction session given by UN Women Country Director, Ms. Zebib Kavuma in a meeting of the National Council of Churches on 2nd December 2015. Of the 200 Committee members attending the meeting, 44 men signed up to the HeForShe solidarity movement. To create more momentum for the commitment NCCK chairperson Rev Canon Rosemary Mbogoh promised to hold an official launch early next year.

In its attempt to engage men in promoting political participation of women, NCCK runs campaign dubbed Men-for-Women modelled along the HeForShe global solidarity movement to enlist champions through building the capacity of respective male faith leaders within the inter-religious organizations structures at the ward, county and national.

UN Women has been working closely with NCCK since the roll out of Gender and Governance Programme in 2009. The partnership has seen NCCK implement several projects that aim to enable women lead and participate in governance. Currently NCCK is partnering with UN Women on “Kaunti Bora project”, implemented in Kwale, Kitui, and Homa bay, Embu, Kiambu, Bomet and Kisumu Counties which aims to maximize into the Counties’ high untapped potential to fully embrace women political leadership.

As a result of two day discussions around the importance of unity and involvement of all stakeholders on national engagement, the Council planned on taking radical action to redeem and restore Kenya highlighting the importance of gender justice in the process.

The bullet of the press release stated: “We therefore urge all men in Kenya to support the HeForShe movement being championed by UN Women and thereby speak out and take action against inequalities faced by women and girls. In addition we call upon all Kenyans to work to elect able women to leadership positions in churches and the community.”

“Statistics show that if we close the global gap in workforce participation between men and women, GDP worldwide would grow by nearly 12% by 2030,” highlighted Ms. Kavuma in her remarks. Ms. Kavuma reiterated that UN Women Kenya will continue to work with NCCK to reduce the gender gap through their target group and will specifically work towards launching the HeForShe solidarity movement within NCCK.

“I am what I am today because of the male support that has been in my life” Rev Canon Rosemary Mlbogoh pointed out as she aired the interest to be part of this noble course. She also urged the men in the room to support the she in their lives for their own benefit.
One in five women has experienced physical or sexual violence in Kenya, according to the Demographic Health Survey. UN Women in Kenya on 8th December held a ‘Call to Action Dialogue’ held at the UN offices in Nairobi in celebration of the 16 Days of Activism against Gender Based Violence (GBV). The dialogue brought together more than 200 participants from the UN, academia, Judiciary and Civil society organization.

The event which was themed “From peace at home, to Peace in the World, Make education Safe for all.” saw interactive participation on experience and way forward in terms of combating Gender Based Violence. The thought provoking conversations were held where participants interrogated their individual roles in enhancing a safer environment free from gender based violence.


FEMENET representative Kennedy Otina in unpacking the term gender Based Violence highlighted that besides physical violence, Gender Based Violence is manifested in other various forms that include rape, verbal, social-cultural practices, and economic violence.

Ms. Nzomo reiterated on the need to mainstream gender in academic institutions by using the spaces to crack the monster of violence. She further noted that there is no consistent mainstreamed manner in place to change the norms and values that define the elements promoting GBV.

“Education, both formal and informal has a role to play in addressing GBV”, said Professor Maria Nzomo. “Any environment that condones inequalities cannot be an environment that can help eradicate gender inequalities.”

UNFPA Kenya Country Representative Siddharth Chatterjee, however stated that education alone might not be enough to emancipate us from deeply held inter-generational prejudice that we hold. “Every religion irrespective of stature has always treated women as underdogs,” he added stating that there is insensitivity among law enforcers and the judiciary because a majority of them are men. UNESCO Kenya representative Abdul Rahman Lamin, giving his perspective of human rights in line with GBV stated that “human rights start in an individual level and at the home level through socialization processes”. He further highlighted on the need to promote inter-generational dialogue on GBV as an intervention beyond the law enforcement response as a first step since culture is dynamic.

The Programs Liaison in the Office of the Chief Justice of the Judiciary of Kenya Ms. Lina Sarapai who was representing the Judiciary highlighted that, gender based violence is the most prevalent form of violence against women in Kenya adding that the Judiciary in Kenya, has taken approaches through jurisprudence a policy and stakeholders perspective through the National Council for Human Rights.

Time to get loud! Take action; speak up to end Gender Based Violence in Kenya

Participants during the 16 Days of Activism event held at the United Nations Offices in Nairobi. (Photo by Kennedy Okoth)

The Director, Institute of Diplomacy and International Relations, University of Nairobi, Prof. Maria Nzomo. (Photo by Kennedy Okoth)
of Administration of Justice (NCAJ). She further added that the Judiciary has the witness protection Act being enforced in the courts which redacts the names of victims of GBV.

‘However, with the innocent until proven guilty rule of the Judiciary, the proof of violence is still an issue and mostly when the crime is in private settings like homes since the evidence is distorted,’ she added.

Ms. Kavuma, UN Women Kenya Director called on everyone to take action to end GBV stating that ‘everyday should be a GBV eradication day, let us all unite, get loud, take action to end GBV in Kenya’

(To report any form of GBV, call 1195- toll free hotline number)

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Goal 9: Build resilient infrastructure, promote inclusive and sustainable industrialization and foster innovation

- About 2.6 billion people in the developing world are facing difficulties in accessing electricity full time.
- 2.5 billion people worldwide lack access to basic sanitation and almost 800 million people lack access to water, many hundreds of millions of them in sub-Saharan Africa and South Asia.
- 1 to 1.5 million people do not have access to reliable phone service.
- For many African countries, particularly the lower-income countries, infrastructure constraints affect company productivity by around 40%.
- Manufacturing is an important employer, accounting for around 470 million jobs worldwide in 2009 – or around 16% of the world’s workforce of 2.9 billion. It is estimated that there were more than half a billion jobs in manufacturing in 2013.
- Industrialization’s job multiplication effect has a positive impact on society. Every one job in manufacturing creates 2.2 jobs in other sectors.
- In developing countries, barely 30% of agricultural production undergoes industrial processing. In high-income countries, 98% is processed. This suggests that there are great opportunities for developing countries in agribusiness.

Goal 10: Reduce inequality within and among countries

- On average – and taking into account population size – income inequality increased by 11% in developing countries between 1990 and 2010.
- A significant majority of households in developing countries – more than 75% – are living today in societies where income is more unequally distributed than it was in the 1990s.
- Children in the poorest 20% of the population are still up to three times more likely to die before their fifth birthday than children in the richest quintiles.
- Social protection has been significantly extended globally, yet persons with disabilities are up to five times more likely than average to incur catastrophic health expenditures.
- Despite overall declines in maternal mortality in the majority of developing countries, women in rural areas are still up to three times more likely to die while giving birth than women living in urban centres.

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9. Advances democracy, assisting many countries a year with their elections
10. Promotes maternal health, saving the lives of millions of women a year

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